

REMARKS

Claims 41-44 are pending in this application, claims 1-40 having previously been canceled. By this Amendment, claims 41-44 are amended. The amendments introduce no new matter because they are supported by at least the depiction in Fig. 3 of the application as originally filed. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action, in paragraph 1, rejects claims 41-43 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by EP 0 754 553 A2 (hereinafter "EP '553"). The Office Action, in paragraph 2, rejects claims 41-44 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,364,450 B1 to Yamaguchi et al. (hereinafter "Yamaguchi"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Both of the applied prior art references teach a plurality of heads arranged to form multiple linear rows of nozzles. In this regard, Applicants understand that the Office Action interprets the term a linear row of nozzle to include one or more linear rows of nozzles in order to make the rejection of the pending claims over the applied prior art references. The multiple rows of nozzles in each of the applied prior art references are specifically configured in the manner depicted in order to accomplish specific objectives outlined in each of the prior art references.

Claims 41-44 recite, among other features, a plurality of heads, each head having the plurality of nozzles linearly arranged with a constant layout pitch of (D), the plurality of heads are arranged to form only a single linear row of nozzles. Neither EP '553 nor Yamaguchi can reasonably be read to teach, or even to have suggested, such an arrangement of the plurality of heads disclosed therein.

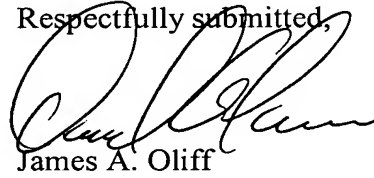
For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 41-44 are neither anticipated, nor would they have been suggested, by either of EP '553 or Yamaguchi.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 41-44 as being anticipated by either of EP '553 or Yamaguchi are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 41-44 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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